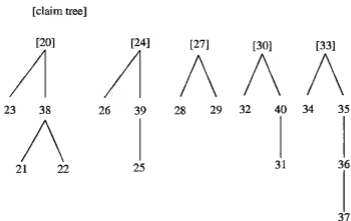


REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 20-40 are pending, in which claims 20-23, 27-38 and 40 are withdrawn.

In response to the restriction requirement of December 26, 2006, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, claims 24, 25, 26, and 39.

The Office Action appears to mismatch claim dependency to each independent claim, and the proper independent claims and their dependencies are illustrated with a claim tree as follows:



Applicants surmise the outstanding restriction election/restrictions stems from the mismatching the claim set (claims 20-26, 27-29, 30-32 and 33-37— i.e., claim dependency informalities which appeared on page 2 of the Office Action), therefore, solicit to withdraw the restriction requirements. Based on the above claim tree, given the limitations to independent claim 20 and 24 by their proper dependencies, Applicants respectfully contend that the independent claims 20 and 24 are not generic.

Further, MPEP § 803 states the following (*emphasis provided*):

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made *without serious burden*, the examiner *must examine* it on the merits, *even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions*.

The claims of the present application would appear to be part of an overlapping search area, thus would not constitute a “serious burden,” especially if the proper dependencies were considered. Namely, ‘authentication mechanism,’ ‘uploading/downloading data’ and ‘authentication and rule based encryption’ associated with security system/method are overlapped in light of view of the above claim tree. For example, provisionally elected claim 39 represents “encrypting data and the user information,” “encrypting the rule and a decryption key,” “performing a user authentication,” and “transmitting the combined information . . . when the user terminal requests a download of the data,” therefore, these features cannot be patentably distinct species.

Pursuant to the Examiner’s request of listing of all claims readable, Applicants submit claims for the consideration.

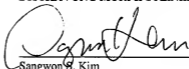
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, and request that each of the pending claims be examined on the merits in the present application.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9955 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG MORI & STEINER, P.C.

1/26/2007
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